

LOUISE VERMILYA, IN STATEMENT, UNERRINGLY LAYS FINGER ON WEAK POINTS IN POLICE CASE

**Points Where Own Defense
Fails, Carefully Glossed Over
—If Guilty, Shrewdest Woman
Criminal Who Ever Lived.**

By Eloise Mortimer.

There has been a great deal of comment on Louise Vermilya's statement in her own defense.

In that statement, Mrs. Vermilya unerringly lays her finger on the weak points of the police case against her.

Is the statement her own?

Or was it inspired by her attorney?

The police are wondering.

For if that statement came from Louise Vermilya herself, and she is a guilty woman, she is one of the shrewdest criminals who ever lived.

There are weak points in her defense. But they are not such weak points as would readily occur to the ordinary reader of her story.

For instance:

Mrs. Vermilya asks why, if she wished to commit suicide last Saturday, she did not swallow all of the contents of the pepper box instead of only taking enough to make her deathly sick.

Sounds plausible, doesn't it?

But Mrs. Vermilya is well aware that she WOULD NOT have died if she had swallowed all the contents of the pepper box. An OVERDOSE of arsenic never kills. It is LESS DEADLY than an underdose.

Also, Mrs. Vermilya was closely watched by detectives and nurses at the time she sprinkled the contents of the death-giving pepper box over her food.

Had she taken an extraordinary quantity of pepper, it would have been noticed immediately, and led to an investigation of the "pepper."

Mrs. Vermilya dwells long on her love for her son, and how preposterous is the charge that she should have murdered her own "dear boy." Also, she states that anyone who ever saw her with her son will testify as to their loving regard for each other.

She makes a very plausible attempt to explain her morbid love for handling dead bodies.

She pictures herself as a lonely widow, who, to while away the tedious hours, cared for the bodies of such dead persons as she had known in life, or the dead of acquaintances.

This explanation is belied by the evidence in the hands of the police.

Mrs. Vermilya never was a lonely widow. And she was entirely indiscriminate as to the dead bodies she handled. Any dead body pleased her.

She touched very lightly on her friendship for Charles C. Boysen, the undertaker, and explains her efforts to have him bury the bodies of those who died in her